
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A HAWAII
PUBLIC SCHOOLS FINANCIAL LITERACY TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, money management is a lifelong issue; and

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3 WHEREAS, few students in Hawaii's public schools are taught
4 the basic concepts of financial literacy; and

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6 WHEREAS, within a lifetime, a person may likely need to
7 manage student and credit card debt, save for a wedding, save
8 for a down payment on a home purchase, and save for retirement;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, due to the power of compounding interest, these
12 large expenditures are best managed as early as possible; and

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14 WHEREAS, work- and money-related stress affects marriages,
15 families, friendships, health, job satisfaction, and individual
16 self-worth and self-esteem; and

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18 WHEREAS, financial literacy is one of the most important
19 skills to help individuals leave poverty; and

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21 WHEREAS, financial literacy teaches young people how to
22 think critically, forces discipline and organization, helps
23 quantify future goals in a practical way, and demonstrates the
24 importance of trade-offs which encourages thoughtful and
25 informed decisions; and

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27 WHEREAS, teaching personal finance concepts to young people
28 can help spark an interest in fields such as business and
29 entrepreneurship; and

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31 WHEREAS, although many agree about the importance of
32 financial literacy education for all students, certain issues
33 and challenges need to be addressed before a program can be
34 implemented in Hawaii public schools such as legal and cultural



1 concerns, identification of a curriculum, time devoted to
2 teaching, acquiring financial resources, and obtaining trained
3 and qualified financial literacy teachers; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
7 that the Department of Education is requested to establish a
8 Hawaii public schools financial literacy task force; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Education
11 or the Superintendent's designee serve as the chair of the task
12 force at the initial meeting to be held no later than August 14,
13 2015, at which time the chair of the task force shall be
14 elected; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
17 comprise of the following individuals:
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- 19 (1) The President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association
20 or the President's designee;
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- 22 (2) Three individuals with experience as a teacher, vice-
23 principal, or principal to be chosen by the
24 Superintendent of Education;
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- 26 (3) Three individuals from financial institutions to be
27 chosen by the Chair of the Senate Committee on
28 Education; and
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- 30 (4) Three individuals to serve as at-large members to be
31 chosen by the Chair of the House of Representatives
32 Committee on Education; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
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- 36 (1) Consider the importance and challenges of implementing
37 financial literacy education for all public school
38 students through a Department of Education curriculum
39 chosen with input from industry experts, such as
40 education regulators, administrators, teachers, and
41 advocates;
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- (2) Develop recommendations and a process for requiring every public school student to participate in a financial literacy course prior to graduating from high school;
- (3) Identify and address legal and cultural concerns about teaching financial literacy education;
- (4) Determine the depth and breadth of financial literacy education students should receive;
- (5) Identify existing programs within Department of Education schools and what financial literacy curriculum currently exists;
- (6) Determine the amount of time required for each student's participation in financial literacy education;
- (7) Identify the best and most relevant curriculum for students to understand, apply, and retain the concepts of financial literacy;
- (8) Develop a plan to obtain the required financial and political support, such as trained teachers, to teach the selected curriculum;
- (9) Develop data metrics to determine the effectiveness of the financial literacy curriculum among students over time;
- (10) Develop a process for making adjustments based upon the data metrics; and
- (11) Identify any other issues that need to be addressed, as determined by the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force are requested to serve without compensation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report, prepared by the Department of Education, of its



1 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
2 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
3 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on
6 June 30, 2016; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and
10 President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association.

